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I, JULIE BILLINGSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND
SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification
in connection with Application No. 2004900098 for a patent by ROBERT
OULIARIN as filed on 09 January 2004.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-third day of August 2004

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Flash and Sound Emitting Diversion Grenade

Field of the Invention

The invention pertains to grenades and more particularly to a grenade that emits a brilliant flash of light and optional sound without rupturing, shattering or creating a risk of subsequent ignition.

Background of the Invention

Common hand grenades are traditionally used at close quarters to create an explosion and dispel fragments. Other types of grenades are also known. A stun grenade creates a combination of explosive shock wave or disruptive concussion, high levels of noise and an accompanying flash which is not contained by the body of the grenade. Known light emitting grenades are used to create a useful level of light of relatively long duration. Known light grenades emit a level of light which is useful for conducting military or police operations in areas where there is insufficient light to operate safely.

However, known distraction type grenades rely on an explosion or pyrotechnic device to create a diversion. Because of the explosive nature of these devices, they constitute a combustion hazard and are not suitable in fuel rich environments, engine rooms, airplanes, enclosed spaces, chemical laboratories, mines and other environments where a combustion initiator can not be tolerated.

Objects and Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the invention to provide a grenade which emits a distraction flash but which is not a combustion initiator.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a grenade which does not fragment, rupture or dispel fragments when activated.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a grenade which emits a distraction flash and sound, but which grenade is not a combustion initiator.

Accordingly there is provided a grenade comprising a transparent body that contains a flash material. The flash material is activated by an electrical initiating element carried by the body and itself activated by a release mechanism.

In preferred embodiments of the invention, a delay mechanism retards the activation of the flash material for an interval after the release mechanism is triggered.

In some embodiments the delay mechanism is a capacitive device which is supplied a voltage from a battery.

In some other embodiments, the grenade carries a tracer light source which is optionally activated by the user and which emits a second source of light which may commence its emission before the flash material is activated.

A source of sound emissions may be combined with any of the above suggested embodiments.

Brief Description of the Drawing Figures

Figure 1 is an elevation of a flash diversion grenade made in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

Figure 2 is an elevation of a flash diversion grenade made in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is an elevation of a flash diversion grenade made in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention.

Best Mode and Other Embodiments of the Invention

As shown in Fig. 1, a diversion grenade 100 comprises a transparent body 102 which contains a flash material 104. The flash material may be strands of magnesium or chemically impregnated fibres or the like which produce a high intensity flash of short duration. The flash material 104 is activated by an electrical initiating element 106 carried on body, for example within a compartment 108. The initiating element 106 is triggered by, for example, the release of a spring loaded lever 110 which may be temporarily secured by a safety pin 112.

In some embodiments the initiating element 106 comprises a source of power such as batteries 114 which supply an activation current to the flash material 104, for example through electrodes 118. A delay mechanism 116 prevents the current from reaching the flash material 104 until a variable or pre-established interval of time has passed. If variable, the delay interval can be set from controls 120 external to the body. A capacitive storage device can be used as a delay mechanism.

In optional embodiments, the grenade carries a tracer light 122 that may be selectively activated by the user. The tracer light 122 emits a second source of light of lower intensity, such as may be emitted by an incandescent or LED light. The tracer light serves the purpose of attracting the attention of the personnel for whom the diversion grenade is intended. It attracts their attention to better insure that they are looking at the grenade 100 when the flash material 104 is activated. The tracer light 104 may also provide an indication of the path of the grenade, for the benefit of the grenade's user. The tracer may be activated immediately upon release of the lever 110 or it may be delayed briefly so as to not give away the position of the user or thrower. If the delay of the tracer light 104 is variable or if its operation is optional at the choice of the user, a control circuit 126 within

the compartment 108 may be used in conjunction with a switch or control knob 124 external to the body. The one or more tracer lights 122 may be located within the transparent body or external to it, or both. The control circuit may also provide pulsed current to the tracer light so as to achieve a strobe effect which is known to attract more attention than an uninterrupted light source.

In preferred embodiments the body is fabricated from a cylindrical transparent or translucent polymer which is thick enough to withstand the energy emitted by the flash material without fragmenting, rupturing, dispel fragments or allowing hot material or gas to escape from the body. In preferred embodiments the activation of the flash material results in little or no noise, particularly when compared to a conventional diversion or distraction grenade.

In another embodiment, and as shown in Figures 2 and 3, the grenade 200, 300 embodies a combination of a brilliant flash and noise. The noise is of a high pitched noise at a frequency that is disturbing or distracting to the person(s) it was designed to affect. As shown in Figure 2, the noise (or sound) is emitted via a speaker 201 built within the grenade. The grenade also employs an in-built noise generator circuit, power supply and amplifier 202 to power the speaker. The noise or sound need last for only several seconds, enough time to provide a debilitating, distracting affect. An external switch 203 gives the ability to select noise or no noise prior to deploying the grenade. When employing both noise and flash, the tracer light 122 is preferably initiated first to attract the attention of the person(s) it was designed to be employed against, and then the flash element and noise initiate to temporarily blind/debilitate/distract the same person(s). The noise or sound then continues to function for several seconds after the flash element has been initiated to continue the distracting effect of the grenade. The sound may be a pre-recorded or synthesized sound, or noise etc.

As shown in Figure 3, a further embodiment of a combination flash/noise grenade 300 generates noise from the escaping gases of a CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) cartridge 301. Under pressure when these gases are released, they pass through a whistle type device

302, producing a distracting, disturbing high frequency noise. The release of these gases occurs simultaneously with the flash element initiation.

The grenade concept of the present invention may be extended to ammunition that can be launched from weapon systems such as handheld 40mm Grenade launchers. In this embodiment, the grenades incorporate the same characteristics and capabilities as the handheld grenades, but are fired from a weapon. The munition is then preferably impact initiated after a short delay, whereupon the flash element and or the flash element/noise distracting effect occurs.

A larger version of the grenade or device may be used to temporarily blind and distract personnel within the cockpit of an aircraft or rooms within multi-level buildings. The grenade may be supported or located by an adjustable or telescopic pole. It can have small digital cameras attached to provide visual data from which an operator may choose the opportunity to initiate the device at an optimum time. It can have a small illuminator or torch to provide the effect of gaining attention to the persons within building or cockpit. The device may be incorporated into a life size pictures or dummy representing an assaulter.

The grenades of the present invention preferably do not vent flammable gases although they may vent some gases to prevent overpressure rupturing the external case.

In some embodiments the grenades may be initiated by a command issued from a remote wireless RF, IR or other device.

While the invention has been described with reference to particular materials and details of construction, these have been provided as examples and not as limitation to the scope or spirit of the invention.

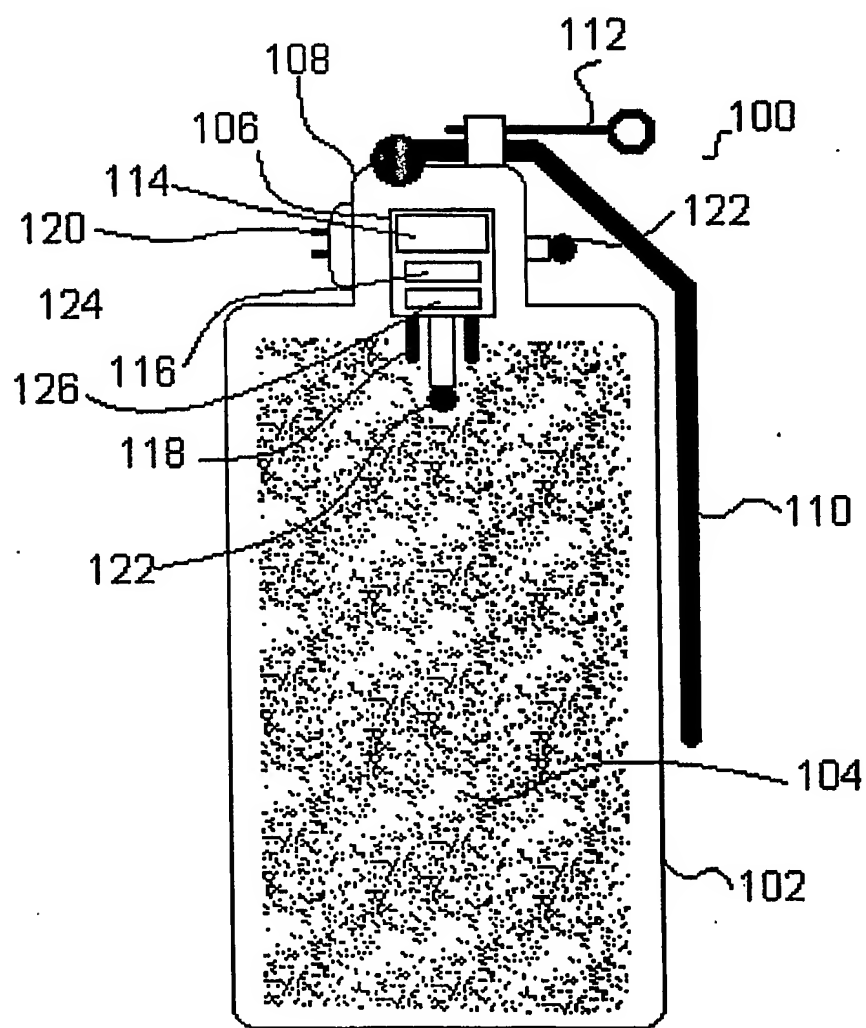


Fig. 1

